



Office of the City Manager

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 13, 2009
To: Mayor and City Council
Through: Donna Dreska, City Manager
From: Maureen McKissick, Grant and Fund Development Manager
Subject: Updates re the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Since staff's last memo of June 13, 2009, there have been several notable developments with respect to the Recovery Act:

1. On July 9, per Council's direction, the City submitted a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for \$2.8 million to demolish the existing Fire Station #5 and construct a new station modeled on Station #19, the "Somerset" station. Staff has learned that two other local fire departments – the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Sparks Fire Department – also submitted applications for this funding.

DHS expects to receive 15,000-20,000 applications for the \$210 million in available funding. This is one of the most competitive applications the City has ever submitted. DHS has stated that it hopes to announce the awards on September 30, but, because of the high volume of applications, there is a good chance that the announcements may be delayed.

2. The Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) for broadband grants was released on July 2. Funds will be made available in three "rounds." Applications for the first round are due on August 14. The City of Reno, RTC, TMWA, UNR, TMCC, WCSO, Washoe County, Sparks and several rural communities planned to submit a collaborative application for \$10 million for expanding the regional wireless network. However, the terms of the NOFA effectively exclude most schools, libraries, healthcare organizations, public institutions, and units of local government from receiving grants. Preliminary feedback is that the exclusion was unintentional and will be corrected so that these entities are eligible for funding through rounds two and three. Staff is closely following these developments so that the collaborative application can be submitted at a later date.

3.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has extended to August 10 the application period for the Energy Strategies that recipients of Energy Efficiency Community Block grant funds are required to submit. The original deadline was June 25 and the City had submitted its Strategy several weeks before that in the hope of early approval. DOE will not make funds available until recipients' Energy Strategies are approved, so the extension will delay the City's implementation of the energy projects that Council selected.